

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 140872

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USSAEC, SA, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION - HOUSING

REF: STATE 129257; JIDDA 4047; STATE 139604

1. RESPONSE TO YOUR QUESTIONS PARA 4 REFTEL FOLLOW:

(A) USG ROLE WOULD BE LIMITED TO POSSIBLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SAUDI OFFICE OF HOUSING UNDER TCA; INFORMING THE U.S. PRIVATE SECTOR OF SAUDI NEEDS, LIMITATIONS AND PREFERENCES; AND PROVIDING APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO EFFORTS OF PRIVATE SECTOR TO RESPOND TO FOREGOING. WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES, WE PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POTENTIAL ROLE OF USG SIDE OF JOINT COMMISSION. EMBASSY

FAMILIAR WITH LIMITATIONS ON ADDITIONAL COE PARTICIPATION. WE HAVE RAISED WITH SEVERAL BROAD-BASED HOUSING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS POSSIBILITY OF ASSOCIATIONS PERFORMING COORDINATING ROLE WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACTS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING IN S.A. DISCUSSIONS HAVE SO FAR BEEN PRELIMINARY, BUT REACTION HAS BEEN POSITIVE ENOUGH TO, WE BELIEVE, PURSUE THIS WITH THE EMBASSY AND SAG TO CLARIFY OBJECTIVES AND PREFERENCES. SINCE SUCH INTRA-INDUSTRY COORDINATION COULD POSE ISSUES UNDER U.S. ANTI-TRUST LAWS, ULTIMATE PROPOSAL, ONCE ITS SPECIFIC

FORM BECOMES CLEAR, MAY BE SUBJECT TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REVIEW. HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN TEAM'S VISIT.

(B) CAGNE IS PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN PREPARATIONS FOR TEAM VISIT. FRANK OCWIEJA, CAGNE SAUDI COUNTRY SPECIALIST, PLANS ACCOMPANY PROPOSED TEAM. SINCE SEVERAL TREASURY OFFICERS WILL BE IN SAUDI ARABIA DURING JUNE ON OTHER BUSINESS, TEAM COULD LINK UP AS SEEMS DESIRABLE.

(C) THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPLORED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PARA (D) ISSUES AND EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED SOLUTION.

(D) WE SEE THE BOYCOTT AS PRESENTING NEITHER MORE NOR LESS OF A PROBLEM IN THIS AREA THAN IN THE OTHER AREAS WE ARE INVOLVED IN. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO AVOID BOYCOTT AS EMBASSY SUGGESTS. WE SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER THERE CAN BE ANY OFFICIAL USG/JC SPONSORSHIP OF PROJECTS OPEN ONLY TO COMPANIES COMPLYING WITH BOYCOTT OR REQUIRING FORMAL OR INFORMAL ASSURANCES OF COMPLIANCE WITH BOYCOTT. KISSINGER

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